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Plot to sell Nato secrets to KGB angers Italy

From Our Own Correspondent
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Reports from Bonn that the secret plans for Nato's new multi-role-combat aircraft, the Tornado, were offered to the KGB and to the Czechoslovak arms firm Omnipol are taken as a blow to the country's defence planning. The Tornado is being built for delivery to Britain, Italy and West Germany in the early 1980s.

Signor Giuseppe Amadei, a member of the defence committee of the Chamber of Deputies, has put down a parliamentary question to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence, asking if the Italians were informed by Bonn of this case of military espionage.

Further, he wants to know if Italian inquiries have been carried out to establish respon-

sibility for the espionage and whether a formal protest should not be made by the British, West German and Italian governments to the powers responsible for an action which is not only damaging to Italy's legitimate interests but crudely violates the principles contained in the Helsinki agreements.

Signor Amadei adds that he will be raising at next month's meeting of the defence committee the whole problem of protecting industrial secrets as far as they concern Italy's Nato obligations.

The case could have important repercussions on Italian defence policy. Britain and West Germany have for months been pressing on the Italians the need to have legislation approved which would allow the Italian Government to make a financial contribution to the project.